

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2459
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2523

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CG
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE

REF: KINSHASA 2501

1. DURING CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA SAID HE HAD NO WORD YET AS TO ANGOLAN REACTION TO NIGERIAN OFFER TO MEDiate, NOTING THAT THIS WAS NOT SURPRISING AS NIGERIAN EMISSARY PRESUMABLY HAD JUST ARRIVED IN LUANDA. IN ANY CASE NGUZA AGREED THAT NIGERIANS COULD BE COUNTED ON TO KEEP US INFORMED DIRECTLY.

2. NGUZA SAID THERE WERE TWO POINTS HE HAD NEGLECTED TO MENTION IN HIS ACCOUNT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN LAGOS (REFTEL): (A) OBASANJO HAD AGREED TO TELEPHONE NYERERE, PRESUMABLY WHILE CASTRO WAS STILL IN DAR, URGING MODERATION ON ALL PARTIES; AND (B) IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING MEDIATION WITH NIGERIANS, IDEA HAD DEVELOPED OF FORMING A COMMISSION COMPOSED NOT ONLY OF ANGOLA, ZAIRE, AND NIGERIA AS MEDIATOR, BUT ALSO ONE OR MORE OTHER AFRICAN PARTIES WHO MIGHT BE DEEMED USEFUL IN FACILITATING SETTLEMENT. COMMISSION
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COULD BE FORUM FOR RESOLVING NOT ONLY SHABA PROBLEM BUT PERHAPS OTHER ISSUES WHICH ANGOLA AND ZAIRE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SORT OUT VIA BILATERAL COMMISSION SET UP MORE THAN A YEAR AGO.

3. NGUZA SAID THAT GOZ SPECIAL EMISSARY LENGEMA, NOW CONFERRING WITH NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ON SHABA INVASION, HAD REPORTED GREAT CONCERN ON KAUNDA'S PART AS TO POTENTIAL DIMENSIONS OF THE

CONFLICT AND HAD AGREED TO URGE NETO TO BE "REASONABLE."
ACCORDING TO NGUZA, KAUNDA HAD ALSO OFFERED ACTIVE ZAMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN ANY AFRICAN PEACE EFFORT. NGUZA THOUGHT ZAMBIA MIGHT PROVE TO BE HELPFUL MEMBER OF MEDIATION COMMISSION MENTIONED PARA 2 ABOVE SHOULD THAT EFFORT GET OFF THE GROUND.

4. FINALLY, LENGEMA HAD REPORTED THAT DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN DAR NYERERE SAID NETO HAD ACKNOWLEDGED TO HIM THAT NETO HIMSELF "HAD SENT THE KATANGANS BACK INTO ZAIRE." (THIS COMES CLOSE TO WHAT NYERERE TOLD AMB. SPAIN.) NGUZA SAID MOBUTU REGARDED THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AS VERY SIGNIFICANT AND WANTED TO BE SURE WE KNEW ABOUT IT. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, NGUZA SAID NYERERE HAD NOT OFFERED TO GET INVOLVED TO THE EXTENT SOME OTHERS HAD BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS AGREED TO DISCUSS THE SHABA PROBLEM WITH BOTH THE ANGOLANS AND CASTRO. NGUZA DID NOT INDICATE, HOWEVER, WHAT LINE NYERERE WAS EXPECTED TO TAKE WITH THEM.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE MAY BE USEFUL IN CONTEXT OF SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING TALK WITH GARBA. WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND, OF COURSE, THAT IT IS IN GOZ'S INTEREST TO IMPRESS UPON US THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS PURSUING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND TO WHICH OTHER AFRICANS ARE SYMPATHIZING WITH ZAIRE'S POSITION. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE MOBUTU HAS COME QUITE A WAY IN REALIZING THAT MEDIATION MAY IN FACT BE THE BEST WAY OUT OF A SITUATION WHICH HIS OWN MILITARY PROBABLY CANNOT HANDLE IF PROLONGED OR ESCALATED. HE WILL OF COURSE BE SENSITIVE TO ANY ANGOLAN EFFORTS TO USE THE NIGERIAN OFFER FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE. HE WOULD PROBABLY SEEK TO EXPLOIT ANY ANGOLAN REJECTION OF THE OFFER IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LAY BLAME ON LUANDA FOR WANTING TO CARRY ON THE
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FIGHTING AND, JUST AS LIKELY, TO STRENGTHEN HIS OWN CASE FOR NEEDING ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ALL THIS OF COURSE POINTS UP THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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